

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Notice to Mariners is published by the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA), under the authority of Department of Defense Directive 5105.40, to advise mariners of important matters affecting navigational safety, including new hydrographic discoveries, changes in channels and navigational aids, etc. (U.S. Code Title 10, Sec. 442 and Title 44, Sec. 1336 refer). Nothing in the arrangement of information implies endorsement or acceptance by NIMA in matters affecting the status and boundaries of States and territories. The Notice to Mariners presents corrective information affecting charts, NIMA Hydrographic Products Catalog, Coast Pilots, Sailing Directions, Fleet Guides, USCG Light Lists, NIMA List of Lights, Radio Navigational Aids and other products produced by the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, National Ocean Service and U.S. Coast Guard.

Information for the Notice to Mariners is contributed by the following Agencies: National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) (Department of Defense) for waters outside the territorial limits of the United States; National Ocean Service (NOS) (Department of Commerce), which is charged with the surveys and charting of the coasts and harbors of the United States and its territories; the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) (Department of Transportation), which is responsible for the safety of life at sea and the establishment and operation of aids to navigation; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Department of Defense), which is charged with the improvement of rivers and harbors of the United States. In addition, important contributions are made by foreign hydrographic offices and cooperating observers of all nationalities.

For further information concerning NIMA hydrographic products and services, including the Maritime Safety Information Website, users may contact:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>DSN</u>	<u>FAX</u>
Maritime Safety Information Division	301-227-5006	287-5006	301-227-5745
World-Wide Navigational Warning Service	301-227-3147	287-3147	301-227-3731
Fleet Liaison Officer	301-227-3120	287-3120	301-227-4211
Maritime Safety Information Website	301-227-3296	287-3296	301-227-4211
Notice to Mariners: Regions 1 and 2	301-227-3122	287-3122	301-227-3175
Notice to Mariners: Regions 3, 4, 5	301-227-3146	287-3146	301-227-3175
Notice to Mariners: Regions 6 thru 9	301-227-3146	287-3146	301-227-3175
Sailing Directions, Fleet Guides	301-227-3183	287-3183	301-227-3174
Navigation Science Publications	301-227-3120	287-3120	301-227-3731
Distribution Issues	301-227-7652	287-7652	301-227-4211

The Maritime Safety Information Website can be accessed via the NIMA Homepage (www.nima.mil) under the Safety of Navigation icon or directly at (<http://pollux.nss.nima.mil>). For your convenience NIMA provides three e-mail addresses. For information affecting Notice to Mariners use NavNotices@nima.mil, for information affecting Sailing Directions and all other navigational publications use SDPUBS@nima.mil, for information concerning the Maritime Safety Information Website, use webmaster_nss@nima.mil.

Mariners are requested to notify NIMA of discrepancies in charts and publications, using the Marine Information Report and Suggestion Sheet at the back of this Notice to Mariners. This form should also be used to report permanent changes, additions, or deletions from charted or published information. Reports which constitute an immediate hazard to navigation should be sent to the nearest NAVAREA Coordinator via coast radio stations. All reports are greatly appreciated.

Cover Photo: Military Sealift Command's Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force (NFAF) is comprised of 34 ships that are the lifeline to U.S. Navy ships at sea. Providing food, fuel, munitions, supplies and critical care facilities these vessels enable our naval combatants to operate at the highest operational level. The hospital ships **USNS COMFORT (T-AH 20)** and **USNS MERCY (T-AH 19)** have two missions. First, to provide a mobile, flexible, rapidly-responsive afloat medical capability to render acute medical and surgical care in support of our armed forces located in areas where hostilities may be imminent. Secondly, to provide a full service hospital asset for use by other U.S. government agencies involved in the support of disaster relief and humanitarian operations worldwide and in evidence most recently by the **COMFORT** responding to our national tragedy in New York City. The **COMFORT** and **MERCY** each contain 12 fully-equipped operating rooms, a 1,000 bed facility, radiological services, medical laboratory, a pharmacy, an optometry lab, a CT scan and two oxygen producing plants making them the largest afloat trauma centers in the world. At 894 feet in length and a 105.6 foot beam they are among the largest ships in the U.S. Naval fleet and are crewed by 67 civilian mariners and can support a 956 Naval medical staff and 258 Naval support personnel. *Photo of USNS COMFORT courtesy of Military Sealift Command, Public Affairs Office.*